

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OHIO

In re:

David Baucom

Case No. 19-11123

Regina Baucom

Chapter 7

Debtors.

Judge Buchanan

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**CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE'S APPLICATION TO RETAIN BK GLOBAL REAL ESTATE
SERVICES AND AND COMEY & SHEPHERD REALTORS TO PROCURE
CONSENTED PUBLIC SALE PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§327, 328 AND 330**

George Leicht, as Chapter 7 Trustee (the “Trustee”) for the estate of David Baucom and Regina Baucom (the “Debtors”), by and through the undersigned counsel, files this Application for entry of an order authorizing retention of BK Global Real Estate Services (“BKRES”) and Comey & Shepherd Realtors (“Listing Agent”) under the terms set forth in the agreement (the “BKRES Agreement”) attached to BKRES and Listing Agent Affidavits of Disinterestedness filed herewith, and in support thereof, the Trustee respectfully states as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Trustee requests approval to retain BKRES and local licensed Listing Agent (individually and collectively referred to as “Broker or Brokers”), at no cost to the estate, to negotiate with and persuade the first lienholder on certain real property in which the estate has no equity to (1) allow Trustee to sell such property at the highest price that the market will bear, (2) waive the resulting deficiency claim and (3) pay an 11 U.S.C. §506 surcharge to provide a carve out for the benefit of the estate and pay all other sale expenses, including a 6% brokerage commission that will be shared equally by BKRES and Listing Agent only upon the closing of a sale that is approved by this Court.

BKRES and its affiliates have proprietary technology and a national team of experienced loan servicing specialists, asset managers, negotiators, trustee relation managers, real estate brokers and agents, closing specialists and attorneys with

extensive experience in procuring the consent of mortgage lenders and servicers to sell over-encumbered properties and provide significant cash recoveries to selling estates with no equity, through the Consented Sale™ process described herein.

The proposed agreements are attached and provide that BKRES and Listing Agent will not be entitled to any compensation from the estate whatsoever under any circumstances. They will only receive and share a customary brokerage commission that is paid by secured creditor as an 11

U.S.C. § 506 surcharge approved by this Court.

The Trustee (1) believes that hiring BKRES and Listing Agent to pursue a Consented Sale™ will likely result in secured creditor paying a carve-out for the benefit of the estate with proceeds from the public sale of an asset in which the estate has no equity and (2) expects to obtain secured creditor's agreement to a Consented Sale™, and bring a separate motion seeking this Court's approval of the procedures, terms and conditions by which the over-encumbered property will be sold, within the coming months.

JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this Application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(A), (M), (N), and (O).
2. Venue is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1408 and 1409.

BACKGROUND

3. On 03/29/2019, the Debtors commenced this case by filing a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.
4. Thereafter, the Trustee was appointed as the Chapter 7 trustee in this case.
5. The section 341 meeting of creditors is scheduled to be held on 05/07/2019.
6. The Debtors are the sole owners of real property located at **6592 STATE RT 48 GOSHEN, OH 45122** (the "Property").
7. The Trustee is informed and believes that there is little or no equity in the Property.
8. The Trustee has determined it to be in the best interest of the Debtors' estate and all creditors to negotiate to obtain Secured Creditor's agreement and consent ("Consent") to do the following, with the proviso that the hired professionals, BKRES and

Local Agent, shall not participate in the sale and purchase of any estate property except as hired Brokers:

- a. sell the Property to whichever third party Trustee determines to have made the best qualified offer during a public sale approved by the Court;
- b. buy the Property from the Debtors' estate if (and only if) no such offer is made¹;
- c. release the Senior Mortgage and otherwise waive all of its claims against the estate with respect to the Property (including any deficiency claims resulting from the proposed sale); and
- d. ~~agree to a~~ 11 U.S.C. § 506 surcharge to pay all of the customary expenses associated with the proposed sale, including the payment of a 6% real estate brokerage commission to BKRES and Listing Agent and reimbursement of their out-of-pocket expenses and provide a meaningful carve out for the benefit of allowed unsecured creditors of the Debtors' estate.

9. The Trustee also has determined it to be in the best interest of the Debtors' estate and all creditors to request authorization to engage Brokers BKRES and Listing Agent to provide reasonable and necessary property preservation, maintenance, and upkeep services to the subject estate Property and to reimburse the Brokers in a maximum amount not to exceed \$500.00 for any approved reasonable, necessary out-of-pocket costs and expenses incurred by Brokers associated with property preservation, maintenance, and upkeep of the subject Property in connection with a potential sale, upon the availability of funds from the estate, without the need for further Order.

10. Trustee expects BKRES and Listing Agent to obtain Secured Creditor's full, final and unconditional Consent and bring a separate motion seeking an order approving the sale of the Property (the "Motion to Approve Sale") within several months of the entry of the order sought by this Application.

11. By this Application, the Trustee requests authority pursuant to Sections 327, 328(a) and 330 of the Bankruptcy Code to (a) retain BKRES and Listing Agent to provide the necessary professional assistance and representation required by the Trustee to fulfill the Trustee's duties pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 704 in order to procure Secured Creditor's Consent, (b) engage Brokers BKRES and Listing Agent to provide reasonable and necessary property preservation, maintenance, and upkeep services to the subject estate Property to facilitate the sale of the Property for the benefit of the Secured Creditor's and bankruptcy estate, (c) reimburse Brokers in the maximum amount not to exceed \$500.00

¹ In the event that the Property is not sold to a third party, the Brokers will be paid in accordance with the non-third party sale terms of the BKRES Agreement and Listing Agreement.

for any approved, out-of-pocket costs incurred by Brokers associated with property preservation, maintenance, and upkeep of the subject Property in connection with a potential sale, upon the availability of funds from the estate, without the need for further Order, and (d) approve Secured Creditor's payment of the fees described herein and below directly to BKRES and Listing Agent at closing of the sale of the Property, if and when the Consent and Motion to Approve Sale are granted.

APPLICATION

12. Section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in relevant part, that a debtor "with the court's approval, may employ or authorize the employment of a professional person under section 327...on any reasonable terms and conditions of employment, including on a retainer, on an hourly basis, on a fixed percentage or fee basis, or on a contingent fee basis." 11 U.S.C. § 328(a). Section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code permits the Court to "award to a trustee... or a professional person employed under section 327... (A) reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services rendered [by such party]... and (B) reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1).

13. As further described in the materials attached to their affidavits, BKRES² and Listing Agent have extensive experience obtaining the consent and agreement of mortgage lenders and servicers to the sale of their collateral and resolution of any resulting unsecured claims in order to produce a recovery for estates from over-encumbered assets in which the estate has no equity. An expedited sale of the estate Property securing an allowed secured claim in this case pursuant to Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code will enhance the bankruptcy relief sought by the Debtors, provide a recovery of value for the bankruptcy estate that will result in a meaningful distribution to unsecured creditors, and provide direct equitable benefits to the Secured Creditor in the following ways:

- a. in exchange for an expedited free and clear sale and realization of the current fair market value of the Property by the Secured Creditor, the Debtors' estate will be released from the Senior Mortgage and any deficiency claims resulting from the sale;
- b. an expedited free and clear sale of the Property will provide a loss mitigation option that enables the Secured Creditor and Debtors' to avoid the substantial expense of foreclosure proceedings and the damaging impact of foreclosure on the financial recovery of the bankrupt Debtors' and their ability to obtain future credit;

² BKRES is the broker affiliate of BK Global (<http://www.bkginc.com/>).

- c. an expedited free and clear sale of the Property will provide a negotiated cash payment as a meaningful recovery of value for the bankruptcy estate and the unsecured creditors;
- d. an expedited free and clear sale of the Property will eliminate the need for a foreclosure sale and enable the Secured Creditor to limit its expenses to legal costs, property preservation costs, insurance, and taxes; and,
- e. the Debtors' voluntary surrender of the Property to the administration of the Trustee and the Secured Creditor's consent to the sale of the Property will enable the Trustee to use the forces of a free market to establish the true fair market value of the Property for the benefit of all interested and affected parties.

14. The Trustee believes that the highest and best value for the Property will be generated through a sale in which the Property is widely marketed to the public and offered at the highest price that the market will bear. The Trustee further believes that such a sale is in the best interest of the Debtors' estate but can only be achieved if Secured Creditor's Consent is first obtained. That is why the Trustee believes that retaining BKRES and Listing Agent to obtain Secured Creditor's Consent is in the best interests of the Debtors' estate.

15. In no event will the estate have any obligation to pay BKRES or Listing Agent for their services, or to pay for customary title and closing services. The terms of the BKRES Agreement and Listing Agreement and this Application provide that BKRES and Listing Agent are only entitled to payment if and when (a) Secured Creditor grants its Consent, (b) the Motion to Approve Sale is granted and (c) the Property is sold, in which event BKRES and Listing Agent will receive and share a 6% real estate brokerage commission and obtain reimbursement of any out-of-pocket expenses and payment for all other expenses associated with the sale of the Property from the sale proceeds at closing in accordance with the order approving the sale.³

16. BKRES and Listing Agent will not be entitled to any fees if Secured Creditor does not grant its Consent or the Court does not grant the Motion to Approve Sale.

17. The Trustee submits that the terms of employment and compensation as set out in the BKRES Agreement and Listing Agreement are reasonable in light of the extensive experience of BKRES and Listing Agent and the nature of the services they provide.

¹ ³ In the event that the Property is not sold to a third party, the Brokers will be paid in accordance with the non-third party sale terms of the BKRES Agreement and Listing Agreement.

18. BKRES attested that it is a disinterested person within the meaning of Section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code and Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 2014 and 2016(a). Attached hereto is an Affidavit of Disinterestedness of BKRES. BKRES also attests, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2016, that it shall not split or share its fee with any individual or entity other than Listing Agent, or a buyer's Agent, if applicable.

19. Listing Agent attested that it is a disinterested person within the meaning of Section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code and Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 2014 and 2016(a). Attached hereto is an Affidavit of Disinterestedness of Listing Agent. Listing Agent also attests, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2016, that it shall not split or share its fee with any individual or entity other than BKRES, or a buyer's Agent, if applicable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing and all other necessary and proper purposes, the Trustee seeks the Court's authority to retain BKRES and Listing Agent in this case, and requests that the Court approve the compensation arrangements set forth in the BKRES Agreement and Listing Agreement and this Application pursuant to Sections 327, 328(a) and 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 5, 2019

/s/ George Leicht

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EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF OHIO

In re:

David Baucom

Regina Baucom

Case No. 19-11123

Chapter 7

Debtors.

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**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE TO RETAIN BK GLOBAL REAL
ESTATE SERVICES AND COMEY & SHEPHERD REALTORS TO PROCURE
CONSENTED PUBLIC SALE PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§327, 328 AND 330**

Upon the Application of George Leicht, the trustee in the above-captioned case ("Trustee"), to Retain BK Global Real Estate Services and Comey & Shepherd Realtors to Procure Consented Public Sale pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§327, 328 and 330 (the "Application"), and the Court having reviewed and considered the Application and the Affidavit of Disinterestedness and found the same to be in the best interest of the Debtors' and creditors of the estate, and having found good and sufficient cause to grant the requested relief, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland the Court hereby FINDS as follows:

- A. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).
- B. Venue of this Chapter 7 case and the Application is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

- C. Notice of the Application was adequate and proper under the circumstances.
- D. BKRES¹ and Listing Agent are disinterested persons within the meaning of Bankruptcy Code Section 101(14).

ACCORDINGLY, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, it is by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland

ORDERED, that the Application be and is hereby GRANTED, and it is further ORDERED, that the Trustee is authorized to retain and compensate BKRES and local

licensed Listing Agent to provide the necessary professional assistance and representation required by the Trustee to fulfill the Trustee's duties pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §704 in order to procure Secured Creditor's Consent, and otherwise market and sell the Property, in Debtor's Chapter 7 case pursuant to Sections 327, 328(a) and 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, and Bankruptcy Rules 2014 and 2016, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the BKRES Agreement, the Listing Agreement and this Order. BKRES and Listing Agent shall not split or otherwise share their fees with any other person or entity, and it is further

ORDERED, that BKRES and Listing Agent shall be compensated in accordance with the BKRES Agreement and Listing Agreement, respectively, and such compensation shall not hereafter be subject to challenge except under the standard of review set forth in Section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, and it is further

ORDERED, that BKRES and Listing Agent shall be authorized to receive and retain their fees from Secured Creditor at the successful closing of the sale of the Property without necessity of further order of the Court. The estate shall, in no circumstance, be obligated to compensate BKRES or Listing Agent in such event and BKRES and Listing Agent shall not have a claim

against the estate for any unpaid amounts. BKRES and Listing Agent, and anyone claiming by, through or under either of them, shall only have recourse for recovering its fee to Secured Creditor. The estate shall have no liability for any such claim, and it is further

ORDERED, that the Trustee is hereby authorized to engage Brokers BKRES and Listing Agent to provide reasonable and necessary property preservation, maintenance, and upkeep services to the subject estate Property to facilitate the sale of the Property for the benefit of the Secured Creditor and bankruptcy estate, and to reimburse the Brokers in a maximum amount not to exceed \$500.00 for the approved reasonable, necessary costs and expenses of preserving, or disposing of, the subject Property, without the need for further Order, and it is further

ORDERED, that the Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

Distribution list

Default List

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